

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, October 10, 1862

Photograph of Grandpapa's Birth Place. St. Andrews. Home, 10th October, 1862. My dear Aleck,

Your leaving us today makes the first break in our family. I thank God, that this break is not attended by any circumstances, retrospective or prospective, which can cause us uneasiness or anxiety on your account. You go to reside for a time with my dear father, where I trust that you will feel- not so much that you have left home; as- that you have only gone, as it were, from one room of your home to another. We shall miss you, my dear boy. You have been a good son,-loving and obedient. If occasional clouds and showers have crossed the zenith in our united life, these have only refreshed our love, and fertilized your character to a richer growth. You leave none but happy memories behind you; and I have full confidence that if God spare your life, you will ripen into manhood with all those qualities the more developed, which have endeared you to the hearts of your fond and thankful parents. I trust that you will be a comfort to your grandfather during your stay with him; a cheerful companion and a willing helper in all that lies in your power: and I pray that health and ability may be continued to him, to enable him to carry out those plans for your instruction and professional training, which, in his love for you and for me, he has formed. Be industrious to profit by your valuable opportunities, 2 that you may, in after years, look back upon time honourably devoted to improvement. In your conduct, be scrupulously careful to do nothing on which you will not be able to look back with satisfaction! You are removed from the anxious supervision of your parents; but the eye of our Heavenly Father will see you always. May His hand preserve you from all temptation and the beginning of evil! Our prayers go with you, and will follow you. Write to us freely, and with openness of heart. Be assured that all your interests are ours. Trust in our loving sympathy in whatever circumstances you may be placed, and never scruple to unfold to us all your mind. Our

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dearest blessings attend you, and may the best of other blessings- Health, and Virtuous peace of mind- be ever with you!

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.